

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A composition comprising:
  - a non-naturally occurring molecular scaffold comprising:
    - a core particle selected from the group consisting of:
      - a core particle of non-natural origin; and
      - a core particle of natural origin; and
    - an organizer comprising at least one first attachment site, wherein said organizer is connected to said core particle by at least one covalent bond; and
    - an antigen or antigenic determinant with at least one second attachment site, said second attachment site being selected from the group consisting of:
      - an attachment site not naturally occurring with said antigen or antigenic determinant; and
      - an attachment site naturally occurring with said antigen or antigenic determinant,
  - wherein said second attachment site is capable of association through at least one non-peptide bond to said first attachment site; and
  - wherein said antigen or antigenic determinant and said scaffold interact through said association to form an ordered and repetitive antigen array.
2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein:
  - said core particle is selected from the group consisting of:
    - a virus
    - a virus-like particle;
    - a bacteriophage;
    - a viral capsid particle; and
    - a recombinant form of (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv); and
  - said organizer is a polypeptide or residue thereof; and
  - said second attachment site is a polypeptide or residue thereof.
3. The composition of Claim 2, wherein said first and/or said second attachment sites comprise:

an antigen and an antibody or antibody fragment thereto;  
biotin and avidin;  
streptavidin and biotin;  
a receptor and its ligand;  
a ligand-binding protein and its ligand;  
interacting leucine zipper polypeptides;  
an amino group and a chemical group reactive thereto;  
a carboxyl group and a chemical group reactive thereto;  
a sulfhydryl group and a chemical group reactive thereto; or  
a combination thereof.

4. The composition of Claim 3, wherein said second attachment site does not naturally occur with said antigen or antigenic determinant.
5. The composition of Claim 2, where in said core particle is a recombinant alphavirus.
6. The composition of Claim 5, wherein said recombinant alphavirus is Sindbis virus and said first attachment site and said second attachment site each comprise an interacting leucine zipper polypeptide.
7. The composition of Claim 6, wherein said first attachment site and said second attachment site are the JUN and/or FOS leucine zipper polypeptides.
8. The composition of Claim 2, wherein said core particle is a virus-like particle.
9. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said first attachment site is an amino group and said second attachment site is a sulfhydryl group.
10. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said virus-like particle is a hepatitis B virus capsid protein.

11. The composition of Claim 10, wherein said first attachment site and said second attachment site each comprise an interacting leucine zipper polypeptide.

12. The composition of Claim 11, wherein said first attachment site is the JUN polypeptide and said second attachment site is the FOS polypeptide.

13. The composition of Claim 10, wherein said first attachment site is a lysine residue and said second attachment site is a cysteine residue.

14. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said virus-like particle is a Measles virus capsid protein.

15. The composition of Claim 14, wherein said first attachment site and said second attachment site each comprise an interacting leucine zipper polypeptide.

16. The composition of Claim 15, wherein said first attachment site and said second attachment site are the JUN and/or FOS leucine zipper polypeptides.

17. The composition of Claim 2, wherein said core particle is selected from the group consisting of:

- recombinant proteins of Rotavirus,
- recombinant proteins of Norwalk virus,
- recombinant proteins of Alphavirus,
- recombinant proteins of Foot and Mouth Disease virus,
- recombinant proteins of Retrovirus,
- recombinant proteins of Hepatitis B virus,
- recombinant proteins of Tobacco mosaic virus,
- recombinant proteins of Flock House Virus, and
- recombinant proteins of human Papillomavirus.

18. The composition of Claim 17, wherein the first attachment site and the second attachment site each comprise an interacting leucine zipper polypeptide.

19. The composition of Claim 17, wherein said first attachment site is an amino group and said second attachment site is sulfhydryl group.

20. The composition of Claim 1, where in said core particle is of non-natural origin.

21. The composition of Claim 20, wherein said core particle is selected from the group consisting of:

- synthetic polymer,
- a lipid micelle, and
- a metal.

22. The composition of Claim 21, wherein said first attachment site and said second attachment site each comprise an interacting leucine zipper polypeptide.

23. The composition of Claim 22, wherein said first attachment site and said second attachment site are the JUN and/or FOS leucine zipper polypeptides.

24. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said antigen is selected from the group consisting of:

- proteins suited to induce an immune response against cancer cells,
- proteins suited to induce an immune response against infectious diseases,
- proteins suited to induce an immune response against allergens, and
- proteins suited to induce an immune response in farm animals.

25. The composition of Claim 24, wherein said antigen is:

- a recombinant protein of HIV,
- a recombinant protein of Influenza virus,
- a recombinant protein of Hepatitis C virus,
- a recombinant protein of Toxoplasma,
- a recombinant protein of Plasmodium falciparum,
- a recombinant protein of Plasmodium vivax,
- a recombinant protein of Plasmodium ovale,
- a recombinant protein of Plasmodium malariae,
- a recombinant protein of breast cancer cells,
- a recombinant protein of kidney cancer cells,
- a recombinant protein of prostate cancer cells,
- a recombinant protein of skin cancer cells,
- a recombinant protein of brain cancer cells,
- a recombinant protein of leukemia cells,
- a recombinant profiling,
- a recombinant protein of bee sting allergy,
- a recombinant protein of nut allergy,
- a recombinant protein of food allergies, or
- a recombinant protein of asthma, or
- a recombinant protein of Chlamydia.

26. The composition of Claim 24, wherein the first attachment site and the second attachment site each comprise an interacting leucine zipper polypeptide.

27. A process for producing a non-naturally occurring, ordered and repetitive antigen array comprising:

- providing a non-naturally occurring molecular scaffold comprising:
  - a core particle selected from the group consisting of:
    - a core particle of non-natural origin; and
    - a core particle of natural origin; and
  - an organizer comprising at least one first attachment site,

wherein said organizer is connected to said core particle by at least one covalent bond; and

providing an antigen or antigenic determinant with at least one second attachment site, said second attachment site being selected from the group consisting of:

an attachment site not naturally occurring with said antigen or antigenic determinant; and

an attachment site naturally occurring with said antigen or antigenic determinant,

wherein said second attachment site is capable of association through at least one non-peptide bond to said first attachment site; and

combining said non-naturally occurring molecular scaffold and said antigen or antigenic determinant,

wherein said antigen or antigenic determinant and said scaffold interact through said association to form an ordered and repetitive antigen array.

28. The process of Claim 27, wherein said core particle is selected from the group consisting of:

a virus

a virus-like particle;

a bacteriophage;

a viral capsid particle; and

a recombinant form of (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv); and

said organizer is a polypeptide or residue thereof; and

said second attachment site is a polypeptide or residue thereof.

29. The process of Claim 28, wherein said first and/or said second attachment sites comprise:

an antigen and an antibody or antibody fragment thereto;

biotin and avidin;

streptavidin and biotin;

a receptor and its ligand;

a ligand-binding protein and its ligand;  
interacting leucine zipper polypeptides;  
an amino group and a chemical group reactive thereto;  
a carboxyl group and a chemical group reactive thereto;  
a sulfhydryl group and a chemical group reactive thereto; or  
a combination thereof.

30. The process of Claim 29, wherein said second attachment site does not naturally occur with said antigen or antigenic determinant.
31. An isolated recombinant alphavirus comprising in its genome:  
a deletion of RNA packaging signal sequences; and  
a non-naturally occurring insertion of the *JUN* leucine zipper protein domain nucleic acid sequence in frame with said alphavirus' E2 envelope protein nucleic acid sequence.
32. A host cell comprising the recombinant alphavirus of Claim 31.
33. A method of medical treatment comprising administering to a subject the composition of Claim 1.
34. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:  
the composition of Claim 1; and  
an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier.
35. A method of immunization comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising:  
a non-naturally occurring molecular scaffold comprising:  
a core particle selected from the group consisting of:  
a core particle of non-natural origin; and  
a core particle of natural origin; and  
an organizer comprising at least one first attachment site,

wherein at least one said organizer is connected to said core particle by at least one covalent bond; and

an antigen or antigenic determinant with at least one second attachment site, said second attachment site being selected from the group consisting of:

an attachment site not naturally occurring with said antigen or antigenic determinant; and

an attachment site naturally occurring with said antigen or antigenic determinant,

wherein said second attachment site is capable of association through at least one non-peptide bond to said first attachment site; and

wherein said antigen or antigenic determinant and said scaffold interact through said association to form an ordered and repetitive antigen array.

36. The method of Claim 35, wherein said immunization produces an immune response.

37. The method of Claim 35, wherein said immunization produces a humoral immune response.

38. The method of Claim 35, wherein said immunization produces a cellular immune response.

39. The method of Claim 35, wherein said immunization produces a humoral immune response and a cellular immune response.

40. The method of Claim 35, wherein said immunization produces a protective response.

41. A vaccine composition comprising:

a non-naturally occurring molecular scaffold comprising:

a core particle selected from the group consisting of:

a core particle of non-natural origin; and

a core particle of natural origin; and



an organizer comprising at least one first attachment site,  
wherein at least one said organizer is connected to said core particle by  
at least one covalent bond; and

an antigen or antigenic determinant with at least one second attachment  
site, said second attachment site being selected from the group consisting of:

an attachment site not naturally occurring with said antigen or  
antigenic determinant; and

an attachment site naturally occurring with said antigen or antigenic  
determinant,

wherein said second attachment site is capable of association through  
at least one non-peptide bond to said first attachment site; and

wherein said antigen or antigenic determinant and said scaffold interact  
through said association to form an ordered and repetitive antigen array.

42. The vaccine composition of Claim 41 further comprising an adjuvant.

43. The vaccine composition of Claim 41, wherein said core particle is  
selected from the group consisting of:

a virus

a virus-like particle;

a bacteriophage;

a viral capsid particle; and

a recombinant form of (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv); and

said organizer is a polypeptide or residue thereof; and

said second attachment site is a polypeptide or residue thereof.

44. The vaccine composition of Claim 43, wherein said first and/or said  
second attachment sites comprise:

an antigen and an antibody or antibody fragment thereto;

biotin and avidin;

streptavidin and biotin;

a receptor and its ligand;

a ligand-binding protein and its ligand;  
interacting leucine zipper polypeptides;  
an amino group and a chemical group reactive thereto;  
a carboxyl group and a chemical group reactive thereto;  
a sulfhydryl group and a chemical group reactive thereto; or  
a combination thereof.

45. The vaccine composition of Claim 43, wherein said core particle comprises a virus-like particle.

46. The vaccine composition of Claim 45, wherein said core particle comprises a Hepatitis B virus-like particle.

47. The vaccine composition of Claim 45, wherein said core particle comprises a measles virus-like particle.

48. The vaccine composition of Claim 43, wherein said core particle comprises a virus.

49. The vaccine composition of Claim 48, wherein said core particle comprises the Sindbis virus.